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tion, but the rays were contracted so as to be about half the original length, and many had a minute granular ball at the end, apparently effete matter thrown off from them. At this time the animalcules were returned to the aquarium.

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NOVEMBER 7.

The President, Dr. LEIDY, in the chair.

Thirty persons present.

The following were presented for publication:—

“A review of Swainson’s Genera of Fishes,” by Joseph Swain.

“Ants as Beneficial Insecticides,” by the Rev. Henry C. McCook, D. D.

The deaths of Benjamin V. Marsh and Isaac Comly, M. D., members, were announced.

*On Topaz and Biotite.*—Prof. LEIDY exhibited several interesting minerals. One of these was a large crystal of topaz, of dark and decided amethystine hue from Brazil. The yellow topaz is the common kind and this by heating assumes a pink or rose color. He had never seen or read of another of the same color. The crystal is about  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches in length. The other mineral consisted of plates of muscovite containing hexagonal plates of biotite remarkable for their regularity and beauty. The crystals of biotite ranged from a millimetre to 50 mm. in breadth. The specimens are from Macon Co., N. C. Similar specimens are found in West Philadelphia, but he had seen none from this locality in which the crystals of biotite were so regular.

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NOVEMBER 14.

The President, Dr. LEIDY, in the chair.

Thirty-two persons present.

The death of J. Norris Emlen, a member, was announced.

*On Actinosphærium, etc.*—Prof. LEIDY stated that *Actinosphærium Eichhornii*, on which he had made some remarks a few weeks ago, still existed in large numbers in an aquarium in his possession. The animals though in active condition appeared to be habitually sedentary, remaining adherent to the edges of leaves of *Vallisneria* and other aquatic plants, and often, as on a pedicle

to the ends of minute filamentous algæ growing from the former. The last few days he had observed a number apparently in conjugation, conspicuous for their larger size and elongated form. One apparently of two individuals was biscuit-shaped, 1.375 mm. long and 0.625 wide. Later, it assumed an oval shape and measured 1 mm. long and 0.875 wide. Another specimen, apparently of three individuals in a trefoil-like group measured 1.5 mm. long and 1.125 broad. Shortly after it assumed a biscuit form, with one lobe larger than the other and then measured the same length, with the same breadth on one side and 1 mm. on the other. Both of the above were transferred to an animalcule cage, and after twenty-four hours, three appeared in their place. One of these of lozenge shape with rounded angles measured 1.625 mm. long by 0.875 broad; a second was irregularly half-oval and 1.125 mm. long by 0.875 broad; and the third was oval and 0.75 mm. long by 0.625 broad. In the later observation they had discharged all conspicuous food.

Prof. Leidy further stated that on tubes of *Plumatella diffusa*, attached to a stone collected in the same locality as the above, he had noticed many specimens of the following forms of infusoria and rotifers.

*Vaginicola crystallina*.—Tube 0.1 mm. long, 0.028 broad; often containing two individuals.

*Vaginicola tinctoria*.—Tube 0.1 mm. long; at mouth 0.048 wide; just below 0.04 wide.

*Limnias annulatus*.—Tube 0.6 to 0.625 mm. long; 0.05 to 0.0625 wide; rotary disks together 0.2 wide.

*On Tubularia, etc., from Atlantic City*.—Prof. LEIDY exhibited specimens of the hydroid *Tubularia crocea* (*Parypha crocea* Ag.), which he had observed in great profusion attached to the bottom of a wreck at Atlantic City, N. J. With it he had noticed a multitude of the little sea-slug *Eolis pilata* Gould, and the skeleton-shrimp, *Caprella geometrica* Say. He further exhibited specimens of *Alcyonidium ramosum* Verrill, presented by Mr. Edward Potts, and obtained by him from stones at the inlet of Atlantic City.

The following were ordered to be published :—